



Sisters under the skin.....

Gwendy Sneek, Gerda van Leeuwen and Rosalie Klein

The art exposition opening at the RBTT Main Street Branch is a unique collection by three women who are passionate about their art. Despite very diverse backgrounds and mediums in which they work, Gwendy, Gerda and Rosalie consider themselves “Sisters under the Skin” because of a shared philosophy about their work and an admiration they each feel for what each of the other artists has accomplished.

Gwendy works in acrylic, Gerda in aquarelle (watercolors), and Rosalie paints with special dyes on pure silk, with many of her works created with the intention for them to be worn as clothing. Though Gerda and Rosalie have had formal art training in their youth, like Gwendy, they are self-taught in the mediums in which they find they can best express their creativity. Their adventuresome natures have led them to develop unique techniques in the application of their art in the various mediums; something that they each felt best helped them to realize their inner visions.

The work of Gwendy, Gerda and Rosalie will be on view at the RBTT bank at #89 Caya Betico Croes from December 4, 2006 until early February of 2007. Each of the artists has participated in other expositions, and both Gwendy and Gerda have already had shows that featured their works alone. Gwendy held her first solo exposition this year, “Mystique,” in June at the Biblioteca Nacional Aruba. In addition she has participated in exhibitions at the Instituto di Cultura and in a number of collections at Gallery Insight for the Arts. Gerda has exhibited in solo expositions at both the South End Art Gallery in San Nicolaas and the Access Art Gallery in Oranjestad, aside from a solo show in Holland. . Rosalie was featured in a one-woman show of her photographs at the Numismatic Museum, and participated in two art expositions at the Marriott, “Aruba Flora,” and “Celebrate the People.” Her photographs are featured in the “Dutch Diary of Caribbean Artists” for 2007.

In their many discussions about art and their work, the three women found a growing kinship and meeting of minds that lead to the exposition. They have produced approximately fifteen works each that aptly earn the exposition title “Flights of Fantasy.” Each confesses that the motivation behind their artwork is a “desire and drive to create something beautiful for all to see and enjoy. All three have shown a fantastical quality to their work, as they interpret what they see and express it in diverse techniques and mediums. Despite the diversity of subjects expressed in their works, they are united in the joy of creating something beautiful, and in particular, a love and wonder for the splendor of nature binds them together.

Gwendy’s work is a blend of mystery and mysticism, hinting at man’s divine and cosmic origins, which he has been searching for since the day of his creation. Through this unique blend, we become part of “secrets” known for ages by the ancient ones such as shamans, yogis, and medicine men. Her work makes us realize that true spirituality is in the heart of the beholder. She now has added the medium of acrylic to her brush painting on silk technique with which she started her art career and still practices, but is continually expanding her skill and talents

Rosalie admits an appreciation of art that has a practical use, and has been working in batik, woodworking, and clothing decoration for years. Batik gave her the experience that uses resist techniques similar to silk painting but upon experimenting with silk and discovering the effects it produces, she became fascinated and inspired by it.

It has been noted by other artists that the unusual style that Gerda has developed in aquarelle creates a vibrant and eye-catching piece, unlike any sort of watercolor work seen before. Her pieces are so refreshing and imaginative, the colors so vivid, and the subject matter so diverse that they are a delight to behold, and she is great demand as an exhibitor and teacher.

The RBTT Bank is proud to host this most unusual exhibition of women of the Dutch, Aruban and American backgrounds of Gerda, Gwendy and Rosalie. Despite that diversity of culture and upbringing, the mediums employed and their techniques of expression, they feel a unity in their art, philosophy, and love of beauty and creativity that has truly made them “Sisters under the Skin.”